

# PRO

**PROJECTURE**. *n. f.* [*projecture*, Fr. *projectura*, Lat.] A jutting out.  
**TO PRUNE**. *v. a.* [a corruption of *prune*.] To lop; to cut; to trim; to prune.  
 I fit and *prune* my wings  
 After flight, and put new flings  
 To my shafts. *Benj. Johnson.*  
 The country husbandman will not give the *pruning* knife to a young plant, as not able to admit the scar. *B. Johnson.*  
**TO PROLA'TE**. *v. a.* [*prolatum*, Lat.] To pronounce; to utter.  
 The pressures of war have somewhat cowed their spirits, as may be gathered from the accent of their words, which they *prolate* in a whining querulous tone, as if still complaining and crest-fallen. *Howel.*  
**PROLA'TE**. *adj.* [*prolatus*, Lat.] Oblate; flat.  
 As to the *prolate* spheroidal figure, though it be the necessary result of the earth's rotation about its own axis, yet it is also very convenient for us. *Cheyne's Phil. Prin.*  
**PROLATION**. *n. f.* [*prolatus*, Lat.]  
 1. Pronunciation; utterance.  
 Parrots, having been used to be fed at the *prolation* of certain words, may afterwards pronounce the same. *Ray.*  
 2. Delay; act of deferring. *Ainsworth.*  
**PROLEGOMENA**. *n. f.* [*προλεγόμενα*; *prolegomena*, Fr.] Previous discourse; introductory observations.  
**PROLEPSIS**. *n. f.* [*προληψις*; *prolepsis*, Fr.] A form of rhetoric, in which objections are anticipated.  
 This was contained in my *prolepsis* or prevention of his answer. *Bramhall against Hobbs.*  
**PROLEPTICAL**. *adj.* [*proleptis*, Fr.] Previous; antecedent.  
 The *proleptical* notions of religion cannot be so well defended by the professed servants of the altar. *Glanvill.*  
**PROLEPTICALLY**. *adv.* [*from proleptical*.] By way of anticipation.  
**PROLETARIAN**. *adj.* Mean; wretched; vile; vulgar.  
 Like speculators should foretell,  
 From pharos of authority,  
 Pertended mischief farther than  
 Low proletarian tything-men. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
**PROLIFICATION**. *n. f.* [*proles* and *facio*, Lat.] Generation of children.  
 Their fruits, proceeding from simpler roots, are not so distinguishable as the offspring of sensible creatures, and *prolifications* descending from double origins. *Brown.*  
**PROLIFICK**. *adj.* [*prolifique*, Fr. *proles* and *facio*.] Fruitful.  
**PROLIFICAL**. *adj.* ful; generative; pregnant; productive.  
 Main ocean flow'd; not idle, but with warm  
 Prolifick humour foaming all her globe,  
 Fermented the great mother to conceive,  
 Satiate with genial moisture. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
 Every dispute in religion grew *prolifical*, and in ventilating one question, many new ones were started. *Dodgson's Piety.*  
 His vital pow'r air, earth and seas supplies,  
 And breeds whatever is bred beneath the skies;  
 For every kind, by thy *prolifick* might,  
 Springs. *Dryden.*  
 All dogs are of one species, they mingling together in generation, and the breed of such mixtures being *prolifick*. *Ray.*  
 From the middle of the world,  
 The sun's *prolifick* rays are hurl'd;  
 'Tis from that seat he darts those beams,  
 Which quicken earth with genial flames. *Prior.*  
**PROLIFICALY**. *adv.* [*from prolifick*.] Fruitfully; pregnantly.  
**PROLIX**. *adj.* [*prolixus*, Fr. *prolixus*, Latin.]  
 1. Long; tedious; not concise.  
 According to the caution we have been so *prolix* in giving, if we aim at right understanding the true nature of it, we must examine what apprehension mankind make of it. *Digby.*  
 Should I at large repeat  
 The head-roll of her vicious tricks,  
 My poem would be too *prolix*. *Prior.*  
 2. Of long duration. This is a very rare sense.  
 If the appellant appoints a term too *prolix*, the judge may then assign a competent term. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*  
**PROLIXIOUS**. *adj.* [*from prolix*.] Dilatory; tedious. A word of *Shakespeare's* coining.  
 Lay by all nicety and *prolixious* blushes. *Shakespeare.*  
**PROLIXITY**. *n. f.* [*prolixitas*, Fr. *from prolix*.] Tediousness; tireless length; want of brevity.  
 It is true, without any slips of *prolixity*, or crossing the plain highway of talk, that the good Antonio hath lost a ship. *Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice.*  
 In some other passages, I may have, to shun *prolixity*, unawares slipped into the contrary extreme. *Boyle.*  
**PROLIXLY**. *adv.* [*from prolix*.] At great length; tediously.  
 On these *prolaxly* thankful the enlarg'd. *Dryden.*  
**PROLIXNESS**. *n. f.* [*from prolix*.] Tediousness.  
**PROLOCUTOR**. *n. f.* [*Latin*.] The foreman; the speaker of a convocation.  
 The convocation the queen prorogued, though at the expense of Dr. Atterbury's displeasure, who was design'd their *prolocutor*. *Swift.*

# PRO

**PROLOCUTORSHIP**. *n. f.* [*from prolocutor*.] The office or dignity of prolocutor.  
**PROLOGUE**. *n. f.* [*πρόλογος*; *prologue*, Fr. *prologus*, Latin.]  
 1. Preface; introduction to any discourse or performance.  
 Come, fit, and a song.  
 — Shall we clap into 't roundly, without hawking, or spitting, or saying we are hoarse, which are the only *prologues* to a bad voice? *Shakespeare, As You Like It.*  
 In her face excuse  
 Came *prologue*, and apology too prompt. *Milton.*  
 2. Something spoken before the entrance of the actors of a play.  
 If my death might make this island happy,  
 And prove the period of their tyranny,  
 I would expend it with all willingness;  
 But mine is made the *prologue* to their play. *Shakespeare.*  
 The peaking cornuto comes in the infant, after we had spoke the *prologue* of our comedy. *Shakespeare.*  
**TO PROLOGUE**. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.] To introduce with a formal preface.  
 He his special nothing ever *prologues*. *Shakespeare.*  
**TO PROLONG**. *v. a.* [*prolonger*, Fr. *pro* and *longus*, Lat.]  
 1. To lengthen out; to continue; to draw out.  
 Henceforth I fly not death, nor would *prolong*  
 Life much. *Milton.*  
 Th' unhappy queen with talk *prolong'd* the night. *Dryden.*  
 2. To put off to a distant time.  
 To-morrow in my judgment is too sudden;  
 For I myself am not so well provided.  
 As else I would be were the day *prolong'd*. *Shakespeare.*  
**PROLONGATION**. *n. f.* [*prolongation*, Fr. *from prolong*.]  
 1. The act of lengthening.  
 Nourishment in living creatures is for the *prolongation* of life. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
 2. Delay to a longer time.  
 This ambassage concerned only the *prolongation* of days for payment of monies. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
**PROLUSION**. *n. f.* [*prolusio*, Lat.] Entertainments; performance of diversion.  
 It is memorable, which Famianus Strada, in the first book of his academical *prolusions*, relates of Suarez. *Hakewill.*  
**PROMINENT**. *adj.* [*prominentis*, Lat.] Standing out beyond the near parts; protuberant; extant.  
 Whales are described with two *prominent* spouts on their heads, whereas they have but one in the forehead terminating over the windpipe. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
 She has her eyes so *prominent*, and placed so that she can see better behind her than before her. *Mor.*  
 Two goodly bowls of maffly silver,  
 With figures *prominent* and richly wrought. *Dryden.*  
 Some have their eyes stand so *prominent* as the hare, that they can see as well behind as before them. *Ray.*  
**PROMINENCE**. *n. f.* [*prominentia*, Latin; *from prominent*.]  
**PROMINENCY**. *n. f.* Protuberance; extant part.  
 It shows the nose and eyebrows, with the *prominencies* and fallings in of the features. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*  
**PROMISCUOUS**. *adj.* [*promiscuus*, Lat.] Mingled; confused; undistinguished.  
 Glory he requires, and glory he receives,  
 Promiscuous from all nations. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
 Promiscuous love by marriage was restrain'd. *Roscom.*  
 In rush'd at once a rude *promiscuous* crowd;  
 The guards, and then each other overbear,  
 And in a moment throng the theatre. *Dryden.*  
 No man, that considers the *promiscuous* dispensations of God's providence in this world, can think it unreasonable to conclude, that after this life good men shall be rewarded, and sinners punished. *Tillotson's Sermons.*  
 The earth was formed out of that *promiscuous* mass of sand, earth, shells, subsiding from the water. *Woodward.*  
 Clubs, diamonds, hearts, in wild disorder seen,  
 With throngs *promiscuous* throw the level green. *Pope.*  
 A wild, where weeds and flow'rs *promiscuous* shoot. *Pope.*  
**PROMISCUOUSLY**. *adv.* [*from promiscuus*.] With confused mixture; indiscriminately.  
 We beheld where once stood Ilium, called Troy *promiscuously* of Tros.  
 That generation, as the sacred writer modestly expresses it, married and gave in marriage without discretion or decency, but *promiscuously*, and with no better a guide than the impulses of a brutal appetite. *Woodward.*  
 Here might you see  
 Barons and peasants on the embattled field, *Philips.*  
 In one huge heap, *promiscuously* amass'd.  
 Unaw'd by precepts human or divine, *Pope.*  
 Like birds and beasts *promiscuously* they join.  
**PROMISE**. *n. f.* [*promissum*, Lat. *promissus*, *promissus*, Fr.]  
 1. Declaration of some benefit to be conferred.  
 I eat the air, *promise* I cramm'd; you cannot feed capons so. *Shakespeare.*  
 His *promises* were, as he then was, mighty;  
 But his performance, as he now is, nothing. *Shakespeare.*  
 O Lord, let thy *promise* unto David be established. *1 Chron.*  
 Behold, she said, perform'd in ev'ry part. *Dryden.*  
 My *promise* made; and Vulcan's labour'd art. *Let*

# PRO

Let any man consider, how many sorrows he would have escaped, had God called him to his rest, and then say, whether the *promise* to deliver the just from the evils to come, ought not to be made our daily prayer. *Wake.*  
 2. Performance of promise; grant of the thing promised.  
 Now are they ready, looking for a *promise* from thee. *Adams.*  
 3. Hopes; expectation.  
 Your young prince Mamillius is a gentleman of the greatest *promise*. *Shakespeare, Winter's Tale.*  
**TO PROMISE**. *v. a.* [*promette*, Fr. *promitto*, Lat.]  
 1. To make declaration of some benefit to be conferred.  
 While they *promise* them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption. *2 Peter ii. 18.*  
 I could not expect such an effect as I found, which seldom reaches to the degree that is *promised* by the prescribers of any remedies. *Temple's Miscel.*  
**TO PROMISE**. *v. n.*  
 1. To assume one by a promise.  
 Promising is the very air o' th' time; it opens the eyes of expectation: performance is ever the duller for his act. *Shakespeare.*  
 I dare *promise* for this play, that in the roughness of the numbers, which was so designed, you will see somewhat more masterly than any of my former tragedies. *Dryden.*  
 As he *promised* in the law, he will shortly have mercy, and gather us together. *2 Mac. ii. 18.*  
 All the pleasure we can take, when we met these *promising* sparks, is in the disappointment.  
 She brib'd my flay, with more than human charms;  
 Nay *promis'd*, vainly *promis'd* to bestow  
 Immortal life. *Pope's Odyssey.*  
 2. It is used of assurance, even of ill.  
 Will not the ladies be afraid of the lion?  
 I fear it, I *promise* you. *Shakespeare.*  
**PROMISEBREAKER**. *n. f.* [*each and promise*.] Violation of promise. Not in use.  
 Criminal in double violation  
 Of sacred chastity, and of *promise* each. *Shakespeare.*  
**PROMISEBREAKER**. *n. f.* [*promise* and *break*.] Violator of promises.  
 He's an hourly *promise* breaker, the owner of no one good quality worthy your entertainment. *Shakespeare.*  
**PROMISER**. *n. f.* [*from promise*.] One who promises.  
 Who let this *promiser* in? did you, good Diligence?  
 Give him his bribe again. *Benj. Johnson.*  
 Fear's a large *promiser*; who subject live  
 To that base passion, know not what they give. *Dryden.*  
**PROMISSORY**. *adj.* [*promissorius*, Lat.] Containing profession of some benefit to be conferred.  
 As the preceptive part enjoins the most exact virtue, so is it most advantageously enforced by the *promissory*, which is most exquisitely adapted to the same end. *Dodgson's Piety.*  
 The *promissory* lies of great men are known by shuffling, hugging, squeezing, smiling and bowing. *Arbutnot.*  
**PROMISSORILY**. *adv.* [*from promissory*.] By way of promise.  
 Nor was he obliged by oath to a strict observation of that which *promissorily* was unlawful. *Brown.*  
**PROMONT**. *n. f.* [*promontoria*, Fr. *promontorium*, Latin.]  
**PROMONTORY**. *n. f.* Promont I have observed only in *Suckling*.  
 A headland; a cape; high land jutting into the sea.  
 The land did shoot out with a great *promontory*. *Abbot.*  
 I have dogs  
 Will climb the highest *promontory* top. *Shakespeare.*  
 Like one that stands upon a *promontory*,  
 And spies a far off shore where he would tread. *Shakespeare.*  
 A forked mountain, or blue *promontory*,  
 Was set With trees upon't, nod unto the world,  
 And mock our eyes with air. *Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleop.*  
 The waving sea can with each flood  
 Bath some high *promont*. *Suckling.*  
 They, on their heads,  
 Main *promontories* flung, which in the air  
 Came shadowing, and oppress'd whole legions arm'd. *Milton.*  
 Every gust of rugged winds,  
 That blows from off each beaked *promontory*. *Milton.*  
 If you drink tea upon a *promontory* that overhangs the sea, it is preferable to an assembly. *Pope.*  
**TO PROMOTE**. *v. a.* [*promoveo*, *promoveo*, Lat.]  
 1. To forward; to advance.  
 Next to religion, let your care be to *promote* justice. *Bacon.*  
 Nothing lovelier can be found,  
 Than good works in her husband to *promote*. *Milton.*  
 He that talks deceitfully for truth, must hurt it more by his example, than he *promotes* it by his arguments. *Atterbury.*  
 Frictions of the extreme parts *promote* the flux of the juices in the joints. *Ambrosius.*  
 2. [*Promoveo*, Fr.] To elevate; to exalt; to prefer.  
 I will *promote* thee unto very great honour. *Nam. xxii. 17.*  
 Shall I leave my fates wherewith thy honour God and man, and go to be *promoted* over the trees. *Judges ix. 9.*  
 Did I solicit thee  
 From darkness to *promote* me. *Milton.*  
**PROMOTER**. *n. f.* [*promoteur*, Fr. *from promote*.]  
 1. Advancer; forwarder; encourager.

# PRO

Knowledge hath received little improvement from the endeavours of many pretending *promoters*. *Glanvill.*  
 Our Saviour makes this return, fit to be engraven in the hearts of all *promoters* of charity; verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. *Atterbury.*  
 2. Informer; makebate. An obsolete use.  
 His eyes be *promoters*, some trespass to spies. *Trotter.*  
 Informers and *promoters* oppress and ruin the estates of many of his best subjects. *Drummond.*  
**PROMOTION**. *n. f.* [*promoti*, Fr. *from promote*.] Advancement; encouragement; exaltation to some new honour or rank; preferment.  
 Many fair *promotions*  
 Are daily given to enable those,  
 That scarce, some two days since, were worth a noble. *Shakespeare.*  
 The high *promotion* of his grace of Canterbury,  
 Who holds his state at door 'mongst puritans. *Shakespeare.*  
 My rising is thy fall.  
 And my *promotion* will be thy destruction. *Milton.*  
 Thou youngest virgin-daughter of the skies,  
 Made in the last *promotion* of the blest;  
 Whose palms, new pluck'd from paradise,  
 In spreading branches more sublimely rise. *Dryden.*  
**TO PROMOTE**. *v. a.* [*promoveo*, Lat. *promoveo*, Fr.] To forward; to advance; to promote. A word little used.  
 Never yet was honest man,  
 That ever drove the trade of love:  
 It is impossible, nor can  
 Integrity our ends *promove*. *Suckling.*  
**PROMPT**. *adj.* [*prompt*, Fr. *promptus*, Lat.]  
 1. Quick; ready; acute; easy.  
 The reception of light into the body of the building was very *prompt*, both from without and from within. *Watson.*  
 Very discerning and *prompt* in giving orders, as occasions required. *Clarendon.*  
 Prompt eloquence  
 Flow'd from their lips, in prose or numerous verse. *Milton.*  
 To the stern sanction of th' offended sky,  
 My *prompt* obedience bows. *Pope.*  
 2. Quick; petulant.  
 I was too hasty to condemn unheard;  
 And you, perhaps, too *prompt* in your replies. *Dryden.*  
 3. Ready without hesitation; wanting no new motive.  
 Tell him, I'm *prompt*  
 To lay my crown at his feet, and there to kneel. *Shakespeare.*  
 The brazen age,  
 A warlike offspring, *prompt* to bloody rage. *Dryden.*  
 Still arole some rebel slave,  
 Prompter to sink the state, than he to save. *Prior.*  
 4. Ready; told down: as, *prompt payment*.  
**TO PROMPT**. *v. a.* [*promptare*, Italian.]  
 1. To assist by private instruction; to help at a loss.  
 Sitting in some place, where no man shall *prompt* him, let the child translate his lesson. *Asham.*  
 You've put me now to such a part, which never  
 I shall discharge to th' life.  
 — Come, come, we'll *prompt* you. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*  
 My voice shall sound as you do *prompt* mine ear,  
 And I will stoop and humble my intents  
 To your well practis'd wife directions. *Shakespeare.*  
 None could hold the book so well to *prompt* and instruct this stage play, as the could. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
 He needed not one to *prompt* him, because he could say the prayers by heart. *Stillingfleet.*  
 Every one some time or other dreams he is reading books, in which case the invention *prompts* so readily, that the mind is imposed on. *Addison.*  
 Grace shines around her with serene beams,  
 And whirling angels *prompt* her golden dreams. *Pope.*  
 2. To incite; to instigate.  
 The Volcians stand  
 Ready, when time shall *prompt* them, to make road  
 Upon's again. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*  
 Speak not by th' matter  
 Which your heart *prompts* you to, but with such words  
 But rooted in your tongue. *Shakespeare.*  
 If they *prompt* us to anger, their design makes use of it to a further end, that the mind, being thus disquieted, may not be easily composed to prayer.  
 Rage *prompted* them at length and found them arms. *Milton.*  
 Kind occasion *prompts* their warm desires. *Pope.*  
 3. To remind.  
 The inconceivable imperfections of ourselves will hourly *prompt* us our corruption, and loudly tell us we are sons of earth. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**PROMPTER**. *n. f.* [*from prompt*.]  
 1. One who helps a public speaker, by suggesting the word to him when he falters.  
 Were it my cue to fight, I should have known it  
 Without a *prompter*. *Shakespeare, Othello.*  
 In florid impotence he speaks,  
 And as the *prompter* breathes, the puppet squeaks. *Pope.*  
 2. An